

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUCAR 04230 021120Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 DHA-02 SP-02 INR-05 PRS-01
SSO-00 INRE-00 /033 W
-----021128Z 032143 /10

O 020949Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2541
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4230

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PINT CSCE RO
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN DISSIDENTS STEFANESCU AND GOMA

REF: A. STATE 72554 B. STATE 72556

1. BELIEVE USG REPRESENTATION AT THIS TIME ON BEHALF OF GOMA, STEFANESCU, OR OTHER ROMANIAN DISSIDENTS WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE AND PROBABLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. GOMA'S MOVEMENTS APPEARS TO BE BEGINNING TO ACHIEVE SOME ROOTS OF ITS OWN IN ROMANIA, AND FOREIGN INTERVENTION COULD WELL STOP IT DEAD. FURTHER, SO FAR GOR HAS GENERALLY HANDLED DISSIDENT QUESTION WITH RELATIVE DISCRETION AND TACT. ALTHOUGH MANY DISSIDENTS HAVE BEEN INTERROGATED, SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL NONE HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED, TORTURED, OR OTHERWISE SERIOUSLY PHYSICALLY MISTREATED. IF THIS HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE, THEN WE SHOULD REEVALUATE OUR POSITION. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER, WE ENDORSE DEPT'S SUGGESTION THAT MS COHEN EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING REPRESENTATION DIRECTLY TO GOR.

2. STEFANESCU AGAIN CAME TO EMBASSY MORNING APRIL 2 AND SPOKE
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WITH EMBOFF. HE REPORTED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO MANOLIU IN PARIS BY TELEPHONE PREVIOUS EVENING AND THAT COURT APPEARANCE SCHEDULED FOR TODAY HAD BEEN CANCELLED. GOR AUTHORITIES STILL HAVE HIS PASSPORT AND IDENTITY CARD, HOWEVER. HE PLANS TO TRY TO EXTRACT PASSPORT EARLY NEXT WEEK AND, IF SUCCESSFUL, WILL DEPART ROMANIA ASAP THEREAFTER. IF PASSPORT IS NOT FORTHCOMING BY COB TUESDAY, HE IS CONSIDERING A HUNGER STRIKE. FRENCH VISA IS VALID UNTIL

MAY AND PASSPORT UNTIL JULY. STEFANESCU IS IN GOOD SPIRITS AND OPTIMISTIC HIS SITUATION WILL BE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND SATISFACTORILY. HE ATTRIBUTES CURRENT HASSLING TO EXCESSIVE ZEAL OF MINOR SECURITY OFFICIALS WHO, INSPIRED BY CURRENT ANTI-EMIGRATION CAMPAIGN (BUCHAREST 2426), ARE SEEKING TO INTIMIDATE WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS.

3. STEFANESCU SAW GOMA YESTERDAY (APRIL 1) AT HOME AND GOMA WAS SAFE, WELL, AND IN GOOD SPIRITS.

4. IN OTHER POINTS RAISED IN REF A, WE STRONGLY DOUBT SECURITATE IS USING STEFANESCU FOR ITS PURPOSES OR PUT HIM UP TO VISITING EMBASSY. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE CAUTIONED HIM THAT TOO FREQUENT VISITS ARE NEITHER IN HIS INTEREST NOR OURS AND THAT WE CANNOT SERVE AS A CHANNEL FOR PASSING MESSAGES. THERE ARE NO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS RESIDENT IN BUCHAREST EXCEPT AN ANSA REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS ABSENT MORE THAN HE IS HERE.

5. AMBASSADOR IS MEETING AMBASSADOR NICOLAE TODAY AND PLANS RAISE GENERAL SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ROMANIAN DISSIDENT MOVEMENT.

BARNES

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